



Clean Energy Resource Teams

Name: Lola Schoenrich

Title: Statewide Clean Energy Resource Team Coordinator

Organization: Minnesota Project

Address: 1885 University Ave. West, Suite 315

City: St. Paul

State: MN

Zip: 55104

Phone: 651-645-6159, ext. 4

Fax: 651-645-1262

E-Mail: lschoenrich@mnproject.org

Web site address: www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org

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1. What is the initial vision of the lead partner/Partnership?

The purpose of the Clean Energy Resource Team program (CERTs) is to give citizens a voice in energy planning by connecting them with the technical resources necessary to identify and implement community-scale energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

2. What is the Partnership's initial focus and structure?

The CERTs project began in 2003. The first step was to Convene Clean Energy Resource Teams in each of six regions of the state. Each CERTs team has a wide range of stakeholders involved, with an average of 30 people regularly participating. Each also has roughly 200 people on the region's listserve.

Each team began by conducting a Regional Resource Inventory to examine current energy usage and renewable energy resources in the region. They then developed Regional Strategic Energy Plans that highlight each region's top energy priorities. All of the region's have highlighted energy efficiency as a top priority.

The teams have now moved to their next task, implementing community conservation/energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

3. Who does the Partnership identify as potential "partners"? What are the proposed responsibilities of these "partners"?

Each CERTs team is a partner. The CERTs collaborate with local government, schools, colleges and universities, local foundations, farmers and other area business people, utilities, and others. CERTs teams are made up of representatives from these interests.

Their responsibilities include encouraging all Minnesotans to envision an energy future built on using energy wisely and generating energy from local renewable resources like wind, solar, biomass, and even hydrogen from renewable sources. By relying more on community-scale renewable energy resources and energy conservation, communities can help prevent pollution and create local economic development opportunities.

4. What are the Partnership's targeted building sectors?

K-12 schools, colleges and universities, local governments, new buildings under construction.

5. What are the Partnership's initial goals for building performance, EE projects and activities? Square footage? Energy reduction?

The CERTs are working to identify energy conservation and alternative energy opportunities for the targeted building and transportation sector members in their region.

6. How will building improvements fit in with local priorities?

CERTs teams are made up of a broad range of community members. As such they are able to identify local priorities and make connections between different community members, eg connecting the local school with the local utility and energy efficiency providers.

7. How will the activities of the Partnerships be supported?

The project is supported through state, federal and foundation grant funding.

8. What is the Partnership's time frame-schedule?

CERTs began in 2003, and now has well over 200 people involved on the regional teams. The project has committed funding through June 2007.